



Embassy of the United States of America
Pretoria, South Africa

April 17, 2008

To: REFUGEE SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

From: JESSICA L. STEFFENS
POLITICAL SECTION

Subject: THE JULIA V. TAFT FUND FOR REFUGEES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Julia V. Taft Fund for Refugees, formerly the Ambassadors' Fund for Refugees was created as a means of supporting local efforts to address gaps in refugee protection and assistance. Ambassador Eric M. Bost is pleased to announce that the U.S. Embassy Pretoria will again be soliciting proposals for funding from local NGOs involved in refugee support activities. The project(s) to be selected for funding will be one(s) that respond to critical, low-cost gaps in refugee assistance and protection that have not been addressed in other overall multilateral refugee programs. Funding will be limited to a total of U.S. \$20,000 and can be allocated to a single project or to several smaller projects. The projects are intended primarily for programs that are designed to support refugees or returnees, but the U.S. Government will consider proposals designed to support populations of concern, such as internally displaced persons, vulnerable migrants, and stateless persons. Projects that benefit both refugees/returnees and their host communities will also be considered. Funds are not intended to support a refugee emergency as the U.S. Government already contributes to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees operational reserve for emergency response.

Proposals for funding must contain a description of the applicant organization, its history and record of previous projects, the particular needs to be addressed by the proposed program and the program's objectives in addressing those needs, an estimate of the budget, information about the experience and qualifications of the persons who will manage the program, and a copy of the applicant's code of conduct regarding the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation. The code of conduct must be consistent with the UN's core principles as follows:

1. Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitute acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.
2. Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defense.
3. Exchange of money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favors or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behavior is prohibited. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries.

4. Sexual relationships between humanitarian workers and beneficiaries are strongly discouraged since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian work.
5. Where a humanitarian worker develops concerns or suspicions regarding sexual abuse or exploitation by a fellow worker, whether in the same agency or not, s/he must report such concerns via established agency reporting mechanisms.
6. Humanitarian workers are obliged to create and maintain an environment which prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their code of conduct. Managers at all levels have particular responsibilities to support and develop systems that maintain this environment.

Project Proposals must be submitted to the Embassy not later than close of business on Friday, May 2, 2008, by Post or e-mail to the following address:

VIA POST:

JULIA V. TAFT FUND FOR REFUGEES
 ATTN: JESSICA STEFFENS
 EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 877 PRETORIUS STREET
 P.O. BOX 0536
 PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA 0001

VIA E-MAIL:

steffensjl@state.gov
 Subject: Julia V. Taft Fund for Refugees